

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: January 24, 2001

Place: Room 118

Convened: 10:12 AM **Recessed:** **Reconvened:** **Adjourned:** 11:17 AM

Present: Senators Gaskill-CH, Sexton-VC, Black-RM, Fink, Greiner
Representatives Drake-CH, Kettering-VC, Mertz-RM, Baudler, Eddie, Hahn, May,
Quirk, Schrader

Co-Chairman Gaskill called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 24, 2001, at 10:12 AM, in Room 118.

The roll was called with all members in attendance. Senator Greiner moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Representative Hahn seconded the motion.

Senator Gaskill introduced Steve Pennington, Interim Division Administrator of Parks, Recreation, and the Preserve Division of the Department of Natural Resources to discuss the Destination Park proposal and the reorganization of State Parks.

Mr. Pennington defined the term "Destination Park" as being one with facilities designed as a destination for a vacation, as opposed to a drive through visit. At the present time, Iowa does not have a destination park facility. Areas under consideration for development are the Brushy Creek State Park near Fort Dodge and Honey Creek State Park at Lake Rathbun near Centerville. DNR held public meetings at both locations to determine local support for the proposals. The needs of patrons of Brushy Creek centered on maintaining the natural atmosphere of the area with the possibility of building cabins to accommodate hunters. Since Honey Creek appears to offer the best possibility for the development of a destination park, the phase II planning for the area was reviewed. Projected plans will require an estimated \$40-80 million to complete. It is the intention that the project will be funded with both public money and private concessions. The DNR is now requesting \$3-5 million per year for five years. Currently, there is an allocation of \$1 million written into the budget. Question and discussion followed.

Mr. Pennington next discussed the reorganization of park system staffing. The purpose of the restructuring was to modernize the parks staffing organization and meet future needs. Previously, each ranger was responsible for all duties in the park to which he was assigned. Under the new clustering arrangement, parks are grouped in units of 3-4. Staff serving each cluster consists of a ranger, a superintendent and a technician, each spreading their expertise over several parks. Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Pennington distributed three handouts related to his presentation.

Senator Gaskill called for adjournment. Representative Mertz moved to arise. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.